

GALE'S GOLDEN SHOT SAVES WANDERERS' BLUSHES!

Wycombe Wanderers 3, Maidenhead United 3

CHARLIE GALE, Wycombe Wanderers' left-half, reserved his first competitive goal of the season until six minutes from the end of this Wycombe Floodlight League Cup encounter at Loakes Park on Tuesday evening. Not only did Charlie's goal square the match—it certainly spared Wanderers' blushes against a Maidenhead side fielding five reserves!

Manager-coach Barry Darvill switched the side which lost at Oxford, making a couple of positional changes. The most important move was the return of Keith Samuels to his striking role.

As usual, Wanderers' finishing was cause for concern. They ought to have had Maidenhead in a vice-like grip shortly after the interval but allowed them to fight back and take the lead.

Barry Baker gave one of his best displays in a Wycombe shirt. His passing was a joy to watch as he prompted from behind, with an endless stream of pin-point passes. Len Worley also sent over a stream of crosses into the Maidenhead area which were more than often wasted.

EASY GOAL

Wanderers were presented with the lead in the 26th minute. Reserve 'keeper Warner took a goal-kick but only succeeded in clearing the ball to just outside the area straight to Les Merrick, who calmly chipped a shot into the net over the startled Warner's head.

Two minutes later Wycombe went further ahead. Worley won a corner and flashed over a fast centre, Busby, who had been

standing on the edge of the box, timed his run perfectly to bullet in a powerful short-range header.

On the stroke of half-time Gabbini broke through after a misunderstanding between Rundle and Worley. As he veered into the box Faulkner came across to rob him with, what appeared, a fair sliding tackle, but the referee awarded a rather harsh penalty decision. Pitts took the spot-kick shooting low to the right of Maskell.

For the first 12 minutes of the second period Wycombe dominated surging forward in attack. Merrick rattled the bar with a 25-yard drive, Holmes fired inches over and Worley's cross bounced on top of the bar. Warner atoned for his earlier error by making a quite outstanding full-length save from a snap-shot by Busby.

Maidenhead ventured out of their own half in the 62nd minute and scored. Maskell stood still and watched a tame shot from Gabbini sneak between him and the right upright.

Three minutes later Maidenhead were surprisingly ahead. Warner punted a ball out to Woolley who outpaced Eyres—who had looked particularly uncomfortable against the tricky Woolley all evening—on the right flank. His clever forward pass reached Harrington, who slipped the ball in.

Just as it appeared as though Maidenhead would pull-off a slightly unjustified win, judging by the run of the play, Gale made ground and saw his shot charged down. However, he regained possession and cracked home a glorious 25-yard drive into the top right hand corner.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; I. Rundle, P. Eyres; B. Baker, V. Faulkner, C. Gale; L. Worley, V. Busby, L. Merrick, K. Samuels, S. Holmes.